

**Testimony to the Housing Committee Regarding HB 6633, An Act Concerning a Needs Assessment and Fair Share Plans for Municipalities to Increase Affordable Housing**

February 28, 2023

Senator Moore, Representative Luxenberg, Senator Sampson, Representative Scott, and members of the Housing Committee. My name is Donna Kidwell and I'm a resident of Glastonbury. I'm also a member of Glastonbury First Church of Christ's Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) Team.

I want to offer my STRONG SUPPORT for House Bill 6633: An Act Concerning a Needs Assessment and Fair Share Plans for Municipalities to Increase Affordable Housing

As a volunteer with nonprofit organizations providing services to families, I have become keenly aware of the stress inadequate choices of affordable housing has placed on the working poor.

Increasingly, Connecticut and our cities and towns face a housing crisis and shortage that's undermining our vitality and harming people in every zip code and most income levels. Housing costs are overwhelming family budgets. Many are forced into unsafe, substandard housing, and subjected to instances of exploitation. The most unfortunate of our neighbors are sent onto the streets. The housing shortage contributes to and exacerbates the workforce shortage damaging our economy. And, to the profound detriment of all, our rates of racial and socio-economic isolation remain among the highest across the U.S.

HB 6633 offers an opportunity to address this crisis in a fair, thoughtful, and effective manner. It empowers municipalities to meet this crisis in ways best suited to their community, while providing incentives and mechanisms to spur the progress we all so desperately need.

Together, we can build a stronger state economy that is more affordable, sustainable and inclusive for all our families and neighbors.

Thank you for consideration of my thoughts on this outstanding opportunity for Connecticut.